

ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS IN QUEENSLAND.Three Months Ended 31st March, 1957.

Note: Throughout this bulletin, a large number of minor accidents reported to the Police, but not involving death or personal injury and doing vehicle damage worth less than £10, have been omitted.

During the three months ended 31st March, 1957, 61 persons were killed and 2,282 injured in 6,432 road traffic accidents in Queensland. The number of deaths was 10 fewer than in the March quarter of the previous year, and also the lowest quarterly figure for 2½ years. Non-fatal injuries were only 46 greater than in the March quarter of 1956, and were 334 less than the record high figure recorded in the last quarter of 1956. The number of accidents also showed a substantial decrease compared with the record 1956 December quarter, being 1,060 fewer, but there was an increase of 328 over the number reported in the previous March quarter.

Persons who received fatal injuries comprised 21 passengers, 16 motor vehicle drivers, 11 pedestrians, 7 motor cyclists, and 6 pedal cyclists. Compared with the previous March quarter, there were increases in the number of fatalities for motor vehicle drivers and pedal cyclists, the numbers being respectively 5 and 3 greater, but there were 8 fewer pedestrian fatalities and a reduction of 6 and 4 respectively in passenger and motor cyclist deaths. The most satisfactory feature was the below average number of pedestrian and motor cyclist fatalities. In the case of pedestrians the number was the smallest for over 3 years, and for motor cyclists the smallest for 7½ years.

The number of cases of non-fatal injury was higher than in the 1956 March quarter for both motor cyclists and motor vehicle drivers, the former showing an increase of 71 to 403 and the latter an increase of 34 to 518. The largest decrease was for passengers where the number of cases of injury was 818, a reduction of 32, while pedestrian and pedal cyclist figures decreased by 16 and 11 respectively to totals of 272 for pedestrians and 271 for pedal cyclists.

In the age group of 21-29 years approximately 94 per cent. of the casualties were motor vehicle users, this percentage being fairly evenly distributed over passengers (including pillion riders), motor vehicle drivers, and motor cyclists. In the 17-20 years group, with almost the same proportion of motor vehicle user casualties (92 per cent.), the predominant categories were motor cyclists who made up 40 per cent. and passengers who comprised 35 per cent. of the total in the group. Motor vehicle driver casualties (17 per cent.) were a much smaller proportion than in the 21-29 years group. In all other age groups (other than children under 7 years of age), approximately 1 casualty out of every 3 was a passenger, while in the under 7 years groupings the proportion for passengers was much higher. Pedal cyclist casualties predominated in the 7-16 years group and pedestrian casualties comprised the largest single category in the 60 years and over group.

Drivers of motor vehicles (other than motor cycles) were held responsible for 4,075 (63 per cent.) of all accidents which occurred, accounting for 25 (41 per cent.) of the deaths and 1,060 (46 per cent.) of the cases of non-fatal injury. The most serious fault of drivers was "excessive speed" which accounted for 10 deaths and 186 cases of injury in 277 accidents. "Driver asleep or drowsy" was held to be the cause of 5 deaths and 51 cases of injury in 93 accidents, while 122 accidents which resulted in 4 deaths and 49 cases of injury were attributed to "intoxication". "Inattentive driving" was the cause of 1,100 accidents, 2 deaths, and 238 cases of injury, while "not giving right of way to other vehicle at intersection" (406 accidents) and "not keeping to the left" (219 accidents) were each held to be the cause of 1 death and 159 and 94 cases of injury respectively.

Riders of motor cycles were held responsible for 326 (5 per cent.) of all accidents which resulted in 10 (16 per cent.) of the deaths and 277 (12 per cent.) of the injuries. "Excessive speed" was held to be the cause of 4 deaths and 47 cases of injury in 43 accidents, and 3 deaths and 7 cases of injury in 12 accidents were attributed to "overtaking improperly". "Inattentive riding" caused the most accidents (92) and resulted in 2 deaths and 72 cases of injury.

Pedestrians were held to be at fault in 228 (4 per cent.) of all accidents which resulted in 10 (16 per cent.) of the deaths and 240 (11 per cent.) of the injuries. "Crossing the roadway without due care" was the most serious fault of pedestrians and was responsible for 80 accidents, 9 deaths, and 84 cases of injury.

Among causes not entirely due to actions of road users, "road or weather conditions" were held to be the main factor in 488 accidents and "vehicle defects" in 455 accidents, making up 8 and 7 per cent. respectively of all accidents. Two deaths and 173 cases of injury were attributed to "road or weather conditions", while 5 deaths and 196 cases of injury resulted from "vehicle defects".

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Table 1 - Summary of Road Traffic Accidents in Queensland, 1952 to 1957.

Year.	Three Months Ended--				Twelve Months Ended March.
	June.	September.	December.	March.	
Number of Accidents Reported.					
1952-53 ..	3,556	3,465	3,740	3,628	14,389
1953-54 ..	4,083	4,070	4,452	4,393	16,998
1954-55 ..	4,960	4,937	5,456	5,128	20,481
1955-56 ..	5,917	6,410	6,884	6,104	25,315
1956-57 ..	6,159	6,793	7,492	6,432	26,876
Persons Killed.					
1952-53 ..	61	89	86	56	292
1953-54 ..	70	75	75	58	278
1954-55 ..	70	56	89	65	280
1955-56 ..	63	78	71	71	283
1956-57 ..	78	93	81	61	313
Persons Injured.					
1952-53 ..	1,785	1,780	1,862	1,612	7,039
1953-54 ..	1,898	1,904	2,154	1,834	7,790
1954-55 ..	2,041	2,001	2,271	2,040	8,353
1955-56 ..	2,109	2,217	2,515	2,236	9,077
1956-57 ..	2,202	2,324	2,616	2,282	9,424

Table 2 - Types of Road Users Killed or Injured in Queensland.

Period.	Motor Drivers.	Motor Cyclists.	Pedal Cyclists.	Passengers. <sup>a</sup>	Pedestrians.	Total.
Persons Killed.						
<u>Year Ended 31st March-</u>						
1953 .. ..	63	46	22	95	66	292
1954 .. ..	43	66	18	86	65	278
1955 .. ..	49	62	14	91	64	280
1956 .. ..	54	46	18	84	81	283
1957 .. ..	73	39	18	102	81	313
<u>Quarter Ended-</u>						
March, 1956 ..	11	11	3	27	19	71
June, 1956 ..	21	9	5	22	21	78
September, 1956 ..	22	10	5	30	26	93
December, 1956 ..	14	13	2	29	23	81
March, 1957 ..	16	7	6	21	11	61
Persons Injured.						
<u>Year Ended 31st March-</u>						
1953 .. ..	1,164	1,601	905	2,404	965	7,039
1954 .. ..	1,405	1,701	1,008	2,652	1,024	7,790
1955 .. ..	1,661	1,572	1,001	3,008	1,111	8,353
1956 .. ..	1,969	1,565	1,115	3,224	1,204	9,077
1957 .. ..	2,226	1,572	1,146	3,310	1,170	9,424
<u>Quarter Ended-</u>						
March, 1956 ..	484	332	282	850	288	2,236
June, 1956 ..	502	331	283	741	345	2,202
September, 1956 ..	550	377	291	825	281	2,324
December, 1956 ..	656	461	301	926	272	2,616
March, 1957 ..	518	403	274	818	272	2,282

<sup>a</sup> Including tram drivers, riders of animals, drivers of animal-drawn vehicles, &c.



Table 3 - Ages of Persons Killed or Injured in Road Traffic Accidents,  
Three Months Ended 31st March, 1957.

Category.	Killed or Injured.	Under 5.	5-6.	7-16.	17-20.	21-29.	30-39.	40-49.	50-59.	60 and Over.	Not Stated.	Total.
Motor Drivers	Killed	-	-	-	-	4	6	2	1	3	-	16
	Injured	-	-	3	79	155	121	76	43	36	5	518
Motor Cyclists	Killed	-	-	-	3	4	-	-	-	-	-	7
	Injured	-	-	3	179	144	40	25	5	4	3	403
Pedal Cyclists	Killed	-	-	2	-	1	1	-	2	-	-	6
	Injured	-	4	153	29	11	20	26	10	14	4	271
Passengers	Killed	1	1	2	3	5	-	3	2	2	-	19
	Injured	49	27	128	157	161	94	77	52	50	22	817
Pedestrians	Killed	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	9	-	11
	Injured	25	22	48	9	19	23	38	36	49	3	272
Others	Killed	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
	Injured	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Total	Killed	2	2	5	6	14	7	6	5	14	-	61
	Injured	74	53	335	454	490	298	242	146	153	37	2,282

Table 4 - Causes of Road Traffic Accidents in Queensland,  
Three Months Ended 31st March, 1957.

Cause.	Accidents Reported.	Persons Killed.	Persons Injured.	Proportion of Total Accidents Reported.
	No.	No.	No.	Per Cent.
Faults of Drivers of Motor Vehicles (other than Cycles)	4,075	25	1,060	63.3
(Excessive speed)	(277)	(10)	(186)	
(Driver asleep or drowsy)	(93)	(5)	(51)	
(Intoxicated)	(122)	(4)	(49)	
(Inattentive driving)	(1,100)	(2)	(238)	
(Not giving right of way to other vehicle at intersection)	(406)	(1)	(159)	
(Not keeping to the left)	(219)	(1)	(94)	
(All other faults)	(1,858)	(2)	(283)	
Faults of Riders of Motor Cycles	326	10	277	5.1
(Excessive speed)	(43)	(4)	(47)	
(Overtaking improperly)	(12)	(3)	(7)	
(Inattentive riding)	(92)	(2)	(72)	
(All other faults)	(179)	(1)	(151)	
Faults of Pedal Cyclists	159	5	153	2.5
Faults of Drivers of Animal-drawn Vehicles and Riders of Animals	-	-	-	-
Faults of Pedestrians	228	10	240	3.5
Faults of Passengers	48	1	45	0.7
Motor Vehicle Defects	405	5	146	6.3
Motor Cycle Defects	25	-	23	0.4
Pedal Cycle Defects	25	-	27	0.4
Animal-drawn Vehicle Defects	-	-	-	-
Caused by Animals	255	3	39	4.0
Caused by Road Conditions	403	-	147	6.3
Caused by Weather	85	2	26	1.3
Caused by Parties Not Involved in Accident	361	-	88	5.6
Trams Responsible	37	-	11	0.6
Other Causes	-	-	-	-
Total	6,432	61	2,282	100.0